

PATENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving a plurality of information bits in order to form a frame for transmission, the plurality of information bits containing different classes of information bits;
determining an outer quality metric in accordance with the plurality of information bits and an inner quality metric in accordance with at least one group of information bits of a particular class, wherein the outer quality metric and the inner quality metric are determined independently such that the outer quality metric is determined to check the integrity of the frame at a receiver and the inner quality metric is determined to check the integrity of the at least one group of information bits of a particular class at the receiver if the outer quality metric check shows an erasure; and
forming the frame comprising the plurality of information bits, the outer quality metric, and the inner quality metric.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the outer quality metric comprises a cyclic redundancy check (CRC).

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the outer quality metric comprises a parity bit.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the inner quality metric comprises a cyclic redundancy check (CRC).

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the inner quality metric comprises a parity bit.

PATENT

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
transmitting the frame to a destination;
receiving the frame at the destination; and
determining whether the frame has been correctly received based on the outer quality metric contained in the frame.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
if the frame has not been received correctly, determining whether the at least one group of information bits has been received correctly based on the inner quality metric contained in the frame; and
recovering the at least one group of information bits if the inner quality metric indicates that the at least one group of information bits has been received correctly.

Claims 16-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving a plurality of information bits in order to form a frame for transmission, the plurality of information bits containing different classes of information bits;
determining an outer quality metric in accordance with the plurality of information bits and an inner quality metric in accordance with at least one group of information bits of a particular class, wherein the outer quality metric and the inner quality metric are determined independently such that the outer quality metric is determined to check the integrity of the frame at a receiver and the inner quality metric is determined to check the integrity of the at least one group of information bits of a particular class at the receiver if the outer quality metric check shows an erasure, and further wherein the inner quality metric is determined subsequent to the determination of the outer quality metric; and
forming the frame comprising the plurality of information bits, the outer quality metric, and the inner quality metric.